

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A paperless image fax-scanning apparatus, comprising:

an image scanning unit for scanning a document to generate an image data;

a faxing unit connected to a telephone line for transmitting the image data

generated from the image scanning unit or receiving image data *via* the telephone line;

a data storage unit, which can be connected to a portable data storage medium for storing the image data received by the faxing unit in the portable data storage medium;

an input interface, which comprises an operation keyboard for inputting operation signals into the image fax-scanning apparatus; and

a control unit for controlling the operation of the image fax-scanning apparatus.

2. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a network interface through which the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus can be connected to a Local Area Network (LAN).

3. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 2, wherein the LAN is a Local Area Network with Ethernet protocol.

4. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a printer interface for connecting the image fax-scanning apparatus to a printer through which the fax image data received by the faxing unit can be printed out.

5. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

5 a display panel for displaying the operation data inputted by the user and the status of the image fax-scanning apparatus.

6. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a peripheral equipment interface for connecting with peripheral equipment.

7. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 6, wherein the peripheral equipment interface is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

8. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 6, wherein the peripheral equipment interface is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface.

9. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit selectively transfers the image data generated from the image scanning unit to the data storage unit or stores the data in the portable data storage media.

10. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 9, wherein the control unit is further able to selectively have the faxing unit transmit the image data stored in the portable data storage media *via* the telephone line.

11. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 10, wherein the control unit is further able to selectively transform the image data stored in the portable data storage media to image data and have the faxing unit transmit the transformed image data *via* the telephone line.

5 12. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the image scanning unit is a flatbed scanning device.

13. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 11, wherein the flatbed scanning device further comprising:

an Automatic Document Feeder (ADF) corresponding to the flatbed scanning device.
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14. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a floppy disc drive.

15. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a removable hard disc drive.

15 16. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) slot.

17. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a Re-Writable Compact Disc (CD-RW).

18. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit is further able to screen out received fax data to decide whether the fax data should be preserved or not.

19. The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the input
5 interface wirelessly transfers operation signals inputted by a user to other parts of the image fax-scanning apparatus.

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